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Subject: Determination of U.S. Overseas Military Base Requirements

1. You are hereby appointed Director of the Special State- Defense Study Group for the purpose of:

a. Conducting a study, in accordance with the tentative Terms of Reference attached, on overseas military base requirements for the period of the next decade. Approved Terms of Reference will be transmitted in the near future.

b. Recommending an overseas basing system, with alternatives, to support U.S. global strategy through the next decade.

2. Your Deputy will be Ambassador Robert McClintock, Department of State. The permanent members of the Special State-Defense Study Group will be made available to you at such times as may be mutually agreed between you and Ambassador Edwin M. Martin, Director of the SSDSG Latin America Study. This nucleus will be augmented through established administrative procedures in accordance with needs which you will determine.

3. You are authorized to consult with such civilian and military personnel, agencies and consulting services as may be necessary to the accomplishment of your mission and as available funds will permit. Travel incident to such consultations, by you and by such members of the Study Group as you select, is authorized and will be funded by the Department or Agency concerned.

4. The target date for completion of this study is 15 December 1968. Progress reports will be submitted periodically to the Senior Policy Group by informal memoranda.

FOR THE SENIOR POLICY GROUP:

Attachment
Draft Terms of Reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for a study on

UNITED STATES OVERSEAS BASES REQUIREMENTS

to be conducted by

The Special State-Defense Study Group

A. PURPOSE

The study will examine the factors relevant to U.S. overseas basing arrangements and evolve an optimum overseas base¹ system, with alternatives, to support the U.S. world-wide objectives, commitments and strategy through the next decade.

B. SCOPE AND APPROACH

The study will focus mainly on U.S. overseas basing arrangements directly associated with the military posture requirements of U.S. national security to include U.S. installations and U.S. access arrangements supporting related activities such as intelligence collection, communications and scientific research. U.S. World-wide objectives, commitments and strategy will be as posited by national authorities, i.e. Draft Presidential Memoranda and similar documents.

The study will evaluate the adequacy, continued need for and likely long-term tenure of the existing base structure in light of the projected U.S. strategy and the postulated political and technological environment of the period.

In developing the elements of an optimum system, it will determine relative priorities and weigh requirements against discernible costs. It will assess the political feasibility of obtaining and maintaining the essential elements and associated functions of an optimum basing system and

¹ The term "overseas base" will include physical facilities and access arrangements outside the Continental U.S. for exclusive U.S. use, those available for combined U.S. and foreign use and those to which the U.S. would have access in certain contingencies.

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or functional denial at certain essential bases, including implications for the exercise of U.S. politico-military action.

C. MAIN LINES OF INQUIRY

The study will include but not necessarily be limited to:

1. Examination of the political requirements of the U.S. during the period which necessitate a military posture of readiness.
2. Determination of the total overseas base functional requirements to support projected U.S. policy.
3. Determination of the essential scope, functional capabilities and general structure of an optimum U.S. basing system.
4. Assessment of the projected utility and adequacy of the present overseas base systems.
5. Recommendation of an evolved basing system with alternatives, which approaches the optimum to the degree possible in consideration of the projected constraints.
6. In developing the above, consideration will be given to:
 - a. The impact of technological developments on base requirements particularly the degree of functional substitutability between bases and the impact of expected advances in mobility capability.
 - b. Relative priorities in terms of base functions and geographic location.
 - c. Discernible (to include projected) political constraints to the utility of basing arrangements.
 - d. Cost assessment in terms of political advantages and costs, such as diplomatic dislocations and freedom of U.S. political action, as well as budgetary and international balance of payment costs.

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D. ADMINISTRATION

These terms of reference are intended as a guide in orienting the focus of the study. Because of the broad scope involved, selectivity must be exercised in determining those facets of the total problem that require the most intensive investigation.

Accordingly, these terms should not be regarded as rigidly constraining the form or organization of the study and of the report. Any proposals for major change in organization or emphasis in the above terms will, however, be referred to the Senior Policy Group for approval.

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